

WASHINGTON – Congressman Allen Boyd (D-North Florida) today announced that the North Florida Broadband Authority will receive \$30,142,676 to expand access to high-speed Internet to 14 North Florida counties through the creation of a new 1,200-mile fixed wireless broadband network.

“These substantial federal dollars are great news for North Florida and will allow us to significantly increase broadband connectivity to our rural areas,” said Congressman Boyd. “Access to high-speed Internet is critical for our businesses, our schools, and our local governments. By increasing broadband availability in our rural areas, we can expand economic development opportunities, improve education experiences in our classrooms, and enhance other public services throughout the region. I’m excited to be a part of this important initiative.”

The North Florida Broadband Authority will use this funding to bring high-speed broadband services to underserved areas in North Florida through the deployment of a 1,200-mile fixed wireless broadband network. Known as the Ubiquitous Middle Mile project, the new network will directly connect more than 300 community anchor institutions, including public schools, universities, libraries, healthcare facilities, public safety organizations, and government agencies. The new network is expected to reach more than 154,000 households, and 27,000 businesses in our area and will be the first-ever and only network to provide open access to broadband Internet services for both private entities and public institutions in the underserved areas of North Florida. The network will serve Baker, Bradford, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Jefferson, Lafayette, Levy, Madison, Putnam, Suwannee, Taylor, and Union Counties.

“Many communities in North Florida do not have access to broadband. This funding will change that and will help foster innovation and growth throughout our region, as well as ensure that the government can play a more helpful role in furthering economic development in our rural counties.”

Funding for this project came through the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, which was signed into law last year with Congressman Boyd’s support.

The North Florida Broadband Authority, a collaboration of 14 North Florida county governments

and eight municipalities, is focused on cultivating new infrastructure to deliver high-speed broadband access for improved sustainable economic development, educational resources, and access to advanced healthcare services.

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